

Message

From: Lorenz, Robert (IHS/PHX) [Robert.Lorenz@ihs.gov]
Sent: 10/9/2014 4:54:58 PM
To: Lee, Bessie [Lee.Bessie@epa.gov]
CC: brad.rea@ihs.gov
Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Hi Bessie,

Ivan called today on this issue. I recommend you forward him your response below.

Robert

From: Lee, Bessie [mailto:Lee.Bessie@epa.gov]
Sent: Wednesday, October 08, 2014 10:51 AM
To: Douma, Elmer
Cc: lpuhuyesva@hopi.nsn.us; Hughes, Adam (IHS/PHX); Lorenz, Robert (IHS/PHX); Hamilton, John (IHS/PHX); Li, Corine; Albright, David
Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Elmer,

The Polacca water system has water that contains arsenic above the primary drinking water standard of 10 ug/L. The Polacca water system serves the First Mesa Elementary School. The Polacca water system has been out of compliance with the arsenic standard since January 2006.

The arsenic drinking water standard (Arsenic Rule) was adopted on January 22, 2001. The Arsenic Rule was implemented/became enforceable on January 23, 2006. In March 2011, the Polacca water system entered into an Arsenic Compliance Plan with USEPA. The plan identified how the Polacca water system would return to compliance with the arsenic standard, which is to tie into the Hopi Arsenic Mitigation Project (HAMP), a regional water system with source wells that contain arsenic at levels below the drinking water standard.

For the last 4 or 5 years, there have been monthly calls about the HAMP with all the stakeholders. The calls are the first Thursday of every month starting at 9:30 a.m. Hopi Time. You are on the distribution list for the monthly calls, as well as the notes from the monthly calls. Normally, Eldine Stevens and Wendell Honanie are on the calls representing Office of Indian Affairs and BIA, respectively. David Talayumptewa, Dennis Rodriguez, Jack Sullivan, Jaylene Sanchez, Marlene Walker are also on the distribution list for the calls, as well as the call notes. (With the passing of Glenn Ellison, I was asked to add Jack Sullivan and Marlene Walker to the distribution list.)

The status of activities to date for the HAMP:

- Two new source wells have been drilled in the Turquoise Trail area. The water quality and quantity of water in the two wells are very good. Arsenic levels in the waters from each well are less than the primary drinking water standard for arsenic. In addition, the capacity of just one of the wells can meet the demands of the four water systems that will be tying into the HAMP.
- The Hopi Tribe will be submitting an application for about \$17 million to USDA-RD to fully fund the remaining activities of the HAMP. (USEPA funding of about \$5 million was used to drill the wells and complete documents associated with the project.) This application will be for about 75% grant / 25% loan. As required by USDA, a Preliminary Engineering Report (PER), a Draft Environmental Assessment (EA), and a Strategic Plan have been prepared and will be included in the funding application package to USDA. The Draft EA will finish its public comment period in

October 2014. Depending on the comments received by IHS, IHS hopes to issue a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in late October/early November 2014 for the project. Comments from the Hopi Tribe and the affected villages to the PER and the Strategic Plan should be provided to IHS in the same time period as for the Draft EA. Hopefully, the application package can be submitted by the Hopi Tribe to USDA before the end of the calendar year. Since USDA has been participating in the monthly calls about the HAMP for the last couple of years, they are aware of the issues associated with the HAMP.

- Public meetings about the HAMP were held on September 10 and 11, 2014 at the First Mesa Elementary School and Second Mesa Day School, respectively. Elements in the PER, Draft EA and Strategic Plan were presented during the meeting, as well as a status to date of the project.
- A cost analysis was conducted by IHS to evaluate the use of generators or bringing in power to the well field in the Turquoise Trail area. The analysis indicated that bringing in power to the well field was the most economical in the long term. APS has been extremely slow in getting a cost estimate to the Hopi Tribe for bringing in power to the well field. It is expected the cost will be in the millions.
- The Hopi Public Utility Authority (HPUA) was established through a tribal resolution in 2013. HPUA will be the operator of the HAMP.
- There are still documents that the Hopi Tribal Council needs to act on with respect to the HAMP. These documents include the agreements between the affected villages and the Hopi Tribe.
- IHS and the Hopi Tribe have been in discussions with the Office of Indian Affairs to tie in the BIA Keams Canyon, Second Mesa Day School, and Hopi Junior/Senior High School water systems to the HAMP. Office of Indian Affairs is providing \$150,000 to IHS for planning activities associated with tying in the three BIA/BIE facilities to the HAMP. Hopefully, the agreement between IHS and Office of Indian Affairs for the planning activities can be signed by late 2014/early 2015.

The HAMP continues to move forward. With the completion of the various documents, the next step is for the Hopi Tribal Council to approve the documents and submit the funding package to USDA. USEPA will continue to provide annual funding for the HAMP. But the amount of funding is not enough to fully fund the project.

I hope this information helps. If you want, I can add Bart Stevens to the distribution list for the monthly calls.

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Bessie Lee  
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From: Douma, Elmer [<mailto:Elmer.Douma@BIE.EDU>]
Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 8:16 AM
To: Lee, Bessie
Subject: FW: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Ms. Lee, I need your help with this information from your office on the water at First Mesa Elementary School in Polacca Arizona. Bart Stevens, Associate Deputy Director of BIE Schools has concerns of the water at First Mesa Elementary School so can you answer these questions he is asking. We did get an Annual Water Quality Report from Polacca Water

System #090400106 for 2013. I mentioned the MCL/Arsenic level at 10 ppb, but Polacca's water is at 19 ppb. Can you explain what is going on with the new water system being installed for the villages on the East end of the Reservation/Hopi. CC me, Thank you.

From: Stevens, Bartholomew

Sent: Tuesday, October 07, 2014 6:46 AM

To: Douma, Elmer

Cc: Wytewa, Sahmie; North, Eric; Lee, Deborah

Subject: Fwd: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

I am not understanding the reading levels. I don't know what is safe for our staff and student since I just learned of this information. I need to know how long you have known this and what you've been told and by whom of what is safe.

Until I have documentation that it is safe for our students and staff I am directing all water fountains to be shut off. I also want bottled water delivered for staff and student use immediately.

Is it safe to wash dishes/hands/etc.? If not large quantities of water need to be available for the kitchen staff.

Look into these questions immediately so that we can share information with our stakeholders. Has information been shared before?

I am expecting a response by this afternoon.

Bart Stevens

Associate Deputy Director - BIE Operated Schools

Bureau of Indian Education

Office 505.563.5235

Cell 505.228.7387

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Begin forwarded message:

From: David Garza <dgarza@fise-aft.org>

Date: October 6, 2014 at 9:20:34 AM MST

To: "Stevens, Bartholomew" <Bart.Stevens@BIE.EDU>

Cc: 'Eric.' <North@bie.edu>, Sue Parton <sparton@fise-aft.org>

Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Bart,

It seems that Keams has worked on the issue by providing the students and staff with bottled water but what is FMES doing to protect the students and staff there? The Union is concerned that management is not providing the needed protection to both school especially because as you stated "over the last two years regarding the arsenic levels in the water at First Mesa Elementary School without clear information".

Please let FISE know what management plans to do to be sure that the staff and students are being protected of any potential harm while at the worksite.

David Garza

dgarza@fise-aft.org

(c) 505-414-2743

(f) 505-243-4098

From: Stevens, Bartholomew [<mailto:Bart.Stevens@BIE.EDU>]
Sent: Monday, October 06, 2014 9:22 AM
To: David Garza
Cc: 'Eric.'; Sue Parton
Subject: RE: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

The AN ELO facility manager has received an Annual Public Water System Quality Report from Polacca Water Department (PWD) which states they are in violation of arsenic levels in the Polacca area. The ppb units threshold set by EPA is 10 ppb and Polacca is at 19 ppb and sometimes higher. The facility manager continues to ask the PWD over the last two years regarding the arsenic levels in the water at First Mesa Elementary School without clear information other than being told that a new project to bring better water to Polacca after 2015 is in progress now with IHS and EPA. If the actual report is needed it can be provided. BIA has set up a new filtration system through their water system for Keams Canyon Elementary School, and EPA is monitoring alongside BIA.

Let me know if you have additional questions. Thanks

Bart Stevens
Associate Deputy Director - BIE Operated Schools
Bureau of Indian Education
Office 505.563.5235
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From: David Garza [<mailto:dgarza@fise-aft.org>]
Sent: Friday, October 03, 2014 7:32 AM
To: Stevens, Bartholomew
Cc: 'Eric.'; Sue Parton
Subject: Arsenic- Keams Canyon BS and First Mesa ES

Bart,

I received a call from an employee, who wishes to stay anonymous, that there is a report stating that there are high levels of arsenic in the Hopi village. The schools do not have the required safety committees that are required by the CBA so I cannot reach out to any employees that might have clearer information on this. I do send out an annual email to principals in my area of all the required committees. The rumors seems to have some validity as staff at Keams Canyon BS are not drinking the piped water and have bottled water supplied to the staff and students. Can FISE have an update on the issues with the water levels that maybe affecting FISE's concerned constituents? Thank you.

David Garza
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(c) 505-414-2743
(f) 505-243-4098